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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9663  
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 5087  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 8212  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1093  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0927  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 7284  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 9267  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION NORTH KOREA - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Monday morning papers front-paged the nonbinding plebiscite Sunday in Iwakuni City, where Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni is located, as 87 percent of voters said "no" to the planned relocation of a US Navy carrier-borne air wing from NAS Atsugi to MCAS Iwakuni.

¶1. "North Korean Illicit Activities: Stalemate at Six-Party Talks Cannot Be Allowed" An editorial in the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri commented (3/12): "...US and North Korean officials met recently in New York to discuss US sanctions imposed on the DPRK last fall in retaliation for its illicit activities. The US has banned a Macao-based bank suspected of having helped Pyongyang launder money from any dealings with US financial institutions. North Korea's money laundering is connected with its counterfeiting of US currency and its trafficking in narcotics. At the six-party talks last November, the North Koreans said that the sanctions were based on a false allegation and called for their removal. North Korea has made an end to the sanctions a precondition for returning to the six-party talks, which are now at a standstill.

¶2. "At the New York meeting, Pyongyang again denied any involvement in illegal activities, while the US presented evidence and explained the appropriateness of the sanctions. Although neither side budged, the US likely made it abundantly clear to the North Koreans that its allegations are well-founded. The DPRK should quickly return to the six-party talks.... The Kim Jong Il regime is continuing its nuclear development, and it is possible that Pyongyang has acquired enough plutonium to build nearly 10 nuclear weapons. There have also been signs that North Korea is moving to construct a new nuclear reactor. The recent agreement on nuclear cooperation

between the US and India is not helpful. India was recognized as a nuclear weapons state and was not called upon to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). Both North Korea and Iran will likely interpret this accord in a way that serves their own interests."

SCHIEFFER